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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 20 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine issued on 20 February 1998 regarding the terrorist act committed against the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia on 19 February 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 86 and 157 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the
United Nations

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 20 February 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the act of terrorism committed against the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia on 19 February 1998

It is with indignation and grave concern that people in Ukraine received the report of the brazen act of terrorism perpetrated on 19 February 1998 in Georgia - an attack against the representatives of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and a hostage-taking of four military observers of the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its serious concern at the heightening of tension in the region. The Ministry emphasizes once again the inadmissibility of resorting to force and to acts of terrorism as a means of solving political differences.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon the representatives of the opposition in Georgia to refrain from unreasonable actions that could cause further destabilization of the political and social situation in the region and bring about an escalation of the conflict. In its turn, such destabilization might have a negative impact on the situation in the Caucasus as a whole.

There is confidence in Ukraine that the friendly Georgian people and the leadership of Georgia will have enough wisdom and tolerance to undertake decisive and considered measures aimed at achieving civil peace and accord in the country.

The recent developments in Georgia have highlighted the need to take urgent measures to ensure the early entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel as an important means of protecting United Nations personnel in areas of conflict. In this regard, Ukraine urges the Member States of the United Nations who have already signed the Convention to ratify it as soon as possible.